

DETAILED ACTION

Status

1. Claims 1-20 are currently pending in this application.

Priority

2. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. No information disclosure statement (IDS) has been submitted with the response dated on 3/19/2010.

Drawings

4. The drawings submitted on 9/21/2006 are in compliance with 37 CFR § 1.81 and 37 CFR § 1.83 and have been accepted by the examiner.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Regarding claims 1-20:

The primary reason for the allowance of claim 1 is the inclusion of the method steps of: determining the time difference of arrival of the round by sensing maximum change in the static electric field adjacent each of said electric field sensors in the array. It is this/these features found in the claim(s), as they are claimed in the combination that has not been found, taught or suggested by the prior art of record, which makes this/these claim(s) allowable over the prior art.

The primary reason for the allowance of claim 16 is the inclusion of: a processor coupled to each electric field sensor to determine by the change in the static electric field at said sensors caused by the proximity of a round the time of closest approach of said round to the associated sensor and to determine angle of arrival from the difference of arrival of the round at selected pairs of electric field sensors. It is this/these features found in the claim(s), as they are claimed in the combination that has not been found, taught or suggested by the prior art of record, which makes this/these claim(s) allowable over the prior art.

Claims 2-15 are allowed due to their dependency on claim 1.

Claims 17-20 are allowed due to their dependency on claim 16.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Hillard et al. (USPN 5,384,458) teaches a photonic electromagnetic field sensor for use in a missile.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ADITYA S. BHAT whose telephone number is (571)272-2270. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-5:30.

8. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Drew Dunn can be reached on 571-272-2312. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.
9. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Aditya Bhat/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2863
June 6, 2010